

Introduced by Senator Ortiz

February 18, 2005

An act to add Section 12693.265 to the Insurance Code, and to add Section 14005.41 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to nutrition.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 454, as amended, Ortiz. Health counseling.

Existing law provides for the creation of various programs to provide health care services to persons who have limited incomes and meet various eligibility requirements. These programs include the Healthy Families Program, administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Services.

This bill would require the board to adopt policies to establish standards for participating health plans to provide ~~health counseling courses~~ *information that beneficiaries may request that promote* nutrition education, increased physical activity, and participation in federal nutrition programs and would require the department to implement a program to provide ~~to Medi-Cal beneficiaries counseling courses that promote~~ *information they may request that promotes* nutrition education, increased physical activity, and participation in federal nutrition programs. *The bill would require the board and department to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate outreach so that beneficiaries will be aware of the benefits.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (1) Latinos make up to 32 percent of California's population.

4 (2) Forty-three percent of adults are classified as overweight,
5 and 25 percent are obese.

6 (3) Being overweight contributes to heart disease, cancer,
7 stroke, and type II diabetes, which are among the top five causes
8 of death among Latinos in California.

9 (4) Research shows that good nutrition, including eating five
10 or more servings of fruits and vegetables can help reduce the risk
11 of serious health problems and chronic diseases, including heart
12 disease, hypertension, stroke, type II diabetes, obesity, and
13 certain types of cancer.

14 (5) Low-income families have limited access to preventative
15 health counseling courses under current state-sponsored
16 managed care plans.

17 (b) It is therefore the intent of the Legislature to enact
18 legislation to promote healthy eating and education about the
19 benefits of eating the daily recommended number of fruits and
20 vegetables and daily physical activity required for a healthy
21 lifestyle.

22 SEC. 2. Section 12693.265 is added to the Insurance Code, to
23 read:

24 12693.265. The board shall adopt policies to establish
25 standards for participating health plans to provide ~~health~~
26 ~~counseling courses that promote nutrition education, increased~~
27 ~~physical activity, and participation in federal nutrition programs.~~
28 *information that beneficiaries may request that promotes*
29 *nutrition education, increased physical activity, and*
30 *participation in state and federal nutrition programs. The*
31 *standards shall ensure that the materials are culturally and*
32 *linguistically appropriate to significant numbers of the plan*
33 *enrollees with the objective that the beneficiaries can avail*
34 *themselves of the materials without a provider's referral. The*
35 *standards also shall ensure that the plans undertake culturally*
36 *and linguistically appropriate outreach so that enrollees will be*
37 *aware of the benefits that are provided by this section. The*

1 *standards shall ensure that materials will be available through*
2 *contracting providers.*

3 SEC. 3. Section 14005.41 is added to the Welfare and
4 Institutions Code, to read:

5 14005.41. The department shall adopt policies, standards, and
6 procedures for, and implement, a program to provide ~~to~~
7 ~~Medi-Cal beneficiaries counseling courses that promote nutrition~~
8 ~~education, increased physical activity, and participation in federal~~
9 ~~nutrition programs.~~ *Medi-Cal beneficiaries information they may*
10 *request that promotes nutrition education, increased physical*
11 *activity, and participation in state and federal nutrition*
12 *programs. The standards shall ensure that the materials are*
13 *culturally and linguistically appropriate to significant numbers*
14 *of the beneficiaries with the objective that the beneficiaries can*
15 *avail themselves of the materials without a provider's referral.*
16 *The standards also shall ensure culturally and linguistically*
17 *appropriate outreach so that beneficiaries will be aware of the*
18 *benefits that are provided by this section. The standards shall*
19 *ensure that materials will be available through contracting*
20 *providers.*